

Westchester County Mobility and Transit Plan

## NYMTC Brown Bag

January 31, 2024



## AGENDA

Why undertake a mobility & bus redesign

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How the study was done

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What the suggested plan would do

Impacts of Proposed Bus Service

Q & A



### Why a Mobility & Bus Redesign?



### **Development and Travel Patterns Have Changed**

- Some bus routes have not changed in more than 50 years
- Some downtowns and shopping destinations have maintained demand, while others have not
- Employment at suburban office parks has declined and many sites are being redeveloped
- Travel flows have changed, with more flows occurring within the county
- New technologies





### How the Study was Undertaken



### Goals for the Mobility Plan







Design a high-performing, reliable, and easy-tounderstand transportation system, emphasizing speed, convenience, directness, reliability, and comfort. Create a **family of service options** to rightsize mobility services for Westchester's many travel markets. Provide an equitable and socially just transportation network that provides opportunities for prosperity and quality of life to users of all ethnicities, incomes, abilities, and ages.

#### **Project Timeline:**

Feb 2020: Project Initiation

- Robust analysis of current Bee-Line service and performance
- Assessment of transit markets, travel patterns, demographics
- Website, focus groups, and online public survey
- Evaluation of both fixed-route and microtransit options



#### Project Timeline:

SP 2020-FA 2020: Existing Conditions Analysis

- Robust evaluation of current Bee-Line service and performance
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**Project Timeline:** 

FA 2020- 2021: 1<sup>st</sup> Phase Outreach

Oct 2021: draft State of the System Report

- Robust evaluation of current Bee-Line service and performance
- Assessment of transit markets, travel patterns, demographics
- Website, focus groups, and online public survey
- Evaluation of both fixed-route and microtransit options



#### Project Timeline:

FA 2021-SP 2022: Develop Draft Recommendations

- Robust evaluation of current Bee-Line service and performance
- Assessment of transit markets, travel patterns, demographics
- Website, focus groups, and online public survey
- Evaluation of both fixed-route and microtransit options

#### 2nd phase of public feedback

 Interactive Storymap, website updates, pop-ups, virtual meetings



Re-Evaluation based on recurring comments, resulting in some slight modifications





### Suggested Plan



- Improve east-west connections
- Serve major destinations
- Strengthen NYC subway and Metro-North connections
- Streamline and simplify routes
- Run more service earlier, later, and on weekends
- Discontinue low-performing bus routes and route segments
- Introduce microtransit services



- Improve east-west connections
  - Example routes: 45, 78, 8, 13, 101, 103
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  - Example routes: 4, 20, 21, 105, 45, 14. 15, 103
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  - Example routes: 1, 13, 6, 40
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  - Example routes: 9, 60, 61, 15
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### Weekday: Longer Hours and Higher Frequency

 Increase in the of # of routes that have earlier start times, later end times, and more trips by hour of day



#### Change in percent of routes operating by hour

Frequency	4:00	5:00	6:00	7:00	8:00	00:6	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00	0:00	1:00
15 min or																						
less	+0%	+7%	+23%	+34%	+5%	+3%	-2%	-4%	-2%	-1%	+12%	+20%	+25%	+24%	+7%	-0%	+1%	-2%	-2%	-2%	+0%	+0%
16-30 min	+0%	+3%	+9%	+12%	+35%	+19%	+21%	+25%	+20%	+21%	+25%	+35%	+14%	+12%	+12%	+15%	+18%	+13%	+27%	+15%	+6%	+0%
31 min or																						
more	+5%	+4%	-24%	-39%	-22%	+4%	+15%	+19%	+20%	+17%	+1%	-28%	-19%	-31%	-2%	+31%	+24%	+22%	-3%	+6%	+8%	+1%

Does not include service added in microtransit zones

#### Weekends: Longer Hours and Higher Frequency

 Increase in the of # of routes that have earlier start times, later end times, and more trips by hour of day
Seturday - Existing



+0%

+0%

+0%

+0%

+0%

+0%



Does not include service added in microtransit zones

### **Increased Access to Frequent Service**

#### Morning Peak Period

	Access to Frequent Service (Every 15 min or better, AM Peak)							
	Existing	Suggested	Increase					
All Residents	49%	58%	9%					
Jobs	49%	60%	11%					
Zero-vehicle households	78%	85%	7%					
Minority residents	65%	74%	9%					
Households experiencing poverty	70%	77%	7%					
Bus commuters	82%	89%	7%					

Access = within a 1/2 mile (about 10-minute walk) of a Bee-Line bus stop or within a microtransit zone

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  - Example routes: 38, 39, 34, 12
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### Suggested Microtransit Zones

- Peekskill/Verplanck
- Chappaqua Bedford Hills Armonk
- Ossining
- East of White Plains
- Port Chester
- Hartsdale
- Scarsdale
- Southern Yonkers



### Fare Reciprocity

One fare for all Westchester County bus and rail travel

- Current Bee-Line local fare is \$2.75
- Encourages use of Metro-North for longer trips within the county
- Will reduce cost barriers and shorten travel times
- Minor adjustments to proposed system plan if reciprocity not implemented



Photos: Wikimedia; ABC NY

## **Next Steps**

- 1. Closely work with bus operator on implementation and phasing: tied to next contract
- 2. Work with municipalities to coordinate changes
- 3. Develop implantation plan
- 4. Once implementation plan is set upon, hold public hearings
- 5. Educate public on proposed changes, website, new maps, new schedules, etc



**Q & A** 

